

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 01799 290707 Z

16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 COME-00

AID-20 /149 W

----- 050588

R 290640 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0634

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1799

FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN FROM AMBASSADOR RICE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. KATHARINE GRAHAM,
AND MINISTERS

1. AT " WORKING" STAG LUNCHEON WHICH I HOSTED
MARCH 28 FOR KATHARINE GRAHAM, PUBLISHER OF
THE WASHINGTON POST, SPIRITED DISCUSSION TOOK
PLACE AMONG FOUR LABOR PARLIAMENTATIANS, TWO LIBERAL
EX- MINISTERS, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA STEPHEN
FITZGERALD, AND ACADEMICS.

2. I INVITED MRS. GRAHAM TO INITIATE DISCUSSION.
SHE RESPONDED BY INVITING MINISTER OF LABOR CYLDE
CAMERON TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN- AMERICAN
RELATIONS IN VIEW OF HIS " RECENT SPEECH". HE
REPLIED THAT HE HAD MADE ONLY ONE SPEECH OF SIGNIFICANCE
(REFERRING TO " MANIACS" IN THE WHITE HOUSE) AND HE
ASSUMED THAT WAS THE SPEECH SHE WAS REFERRING TO.
IN DEFENSE HE SAID THAT AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS
WERE SUCH CLOSE FRIENDS THAT THEY COULD SPEAK
FRANKLY AND FORTHRIGHTLY TO EACH OTHER, WHICH WOULD
NOT BE POSSIBLE BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FRIENDLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 01799 290707 Z

HE EXPLAINED THAT HE CUSTOMARILY SPOKE BLUNTLY AND HAD FELT FREE TO SAY EXACTLY HOW HE FELT, AND THIS SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY FRIENDS. SENATOR WILLESSEE, MINISTER ASSISTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT HE HAD TOLD CLYDE CAMERON THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE MADE THE OFFENSIVE STATEMENT AND THAT CAMERON UNDERSTANDS HIS FEELINGS ABOUT IT. CAMERON EXPLAINED: "I AM AN OLD SHEEPSHEARER, NOT A DIPLOMAT, AND IT WAS NOT UNNATURAL THAT I SHOULD MAKE UNDIPLOMATIC REMARKS." HE ENDED LONG DISSERTATION ON FRANKNESS AND FRIENDSHIP BY SAYING IT WAS UNLIKELY HE WOULD MAKE ANOTHER SUCH "DIPLOMATIC SPEECH."

3. WE MENTIONED THIS INCIDENT TO MICK SHANN, ACTING SECRETARY DFA TODAY. HE WAS PLEASED WITH CAMERON'S INDICATION THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT THE OFFENSE. SHANN ADDED THAT HE WAS "CERTAIN" THAT CAMERON WOULD NOT REPEAT IT. NEW GOA WAS SETTLING DOWN WITH BETTER DISCIPLINE AND ORDER FOLLOWING INITIAL PERIOD. SHANN ALSO COMMENTED THAT, ALTHOUGH CAMERON WAS A SHEEPSHEARER, HE IS ONE OF THE SHREWDEST MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

4. DURING THE LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS, PROFESSOR BRUCE MILLER, ANU, STATED HIS VIEW THAT THE OLD LIBERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN REACHING FOR AN INDEPENDENT ROLE FOR AUSTRALIA, EVEN BEFORE LABOR TOOK OVER. HE FELT THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE WEAKENING OF TIES WITH UK, AUSTRALIA'S GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH, NEW AND STRONGER RELATIONS WITH ASIA AND ESPECIALLY JAPAN.

5. PROFESSOR TOM MILLAR, ANU, WAS CRITICAL OF OUR ACTION IN PUSHING OUR FRIENDS INTO VOTING AGAINST CHINA'S ADMISSION TO UN UNDER OUR FORMULA, AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE "WERE SECRETLY PLANNING RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CHINA." HE IGNORED TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN CHINA VOTE AND KISSINGER VISIT TO PEKING. WE POINTED OUT PRESIDENT NIXON OUTLINED HIS CHINA RAPPROCHEMENT OBJECTIVE TWO YEARS EARLIER, AND ALSO SENSITIVITY OF INITIAL APPROACH TO PEKING AND THE PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF CONSULTING OUR FRIENDS IN ADVANCE ON EITHER THIS ISSUE OR ON THE IMPOSITION OF THE SURCHARGE AUGUST 15, 1971.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 01799 290707 Z

6. ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENTARIANS DISAGREED ON GOVERNMENT' S
CONDUCT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BOTH SIDES MANIFESTED
FRIENDSHIP AND ADMIRATION FOR AMERICA AND THEIR
ADHERENCE TO OUR ALLIANCE.
RICE

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER01799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimgb.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <17-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980108
Subject: DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. KATHARINE GRAHAM, AND MINISTERS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005